

invention in the determination of an analyte concentration in a physiological sample.

These instructions may be present on one or more of container(s), packaging, a label insert or the like associated with the subject test strips.

#### CLAIMS

[0071] Though the invention has been described in reference to a single example, optionally incorporating various features, the invention is not to be limited to the set-up described. The invention is not limited to the uses noted or by way of the exemplary description provided herein. It is to be understood that the breadth of the present invention is to be limited only by the literal or equitable scope of the following claims. That being said, we claim:

1. A method of producing reagent coated substrate comprising:  
coating substrate with reagent in solution, and  
exposing said solution to radiant energy provided by at least one radiant energy heater.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein airflow sufficient only to break a vapor barrier of the solution is directed at said solution while exposed to radiant energy.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said substrate is provided in a roll, and is fed past said energy source.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said reagent is provided in at least one stripe.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said substrate includes a reflective surface.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said feeding of said substrate is performed at a rate between about 5 and 50 feet per minute.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein said radiant energy is infrared energy delivered at an intensity of at least  $3.5 \text{ W/in}^2$ .
8. A reagent coated substrate made by the process of claim 1, whereby dried reagent having a substantially uniform thickness is produced.
9. The reagent coated substrate of claim 8, wherein said substrate comprises an inert backing material and a metallic coating.
10. The reagent coated substrate of claim 8, in a test strip precursor.
11. The reagent coated substrate of claim 8, in a reagent test strip.
12. The reagent coated substrate of claim 8, in an electrochemical-type test strip.
13. The reagent coated substrate of claim 8, in an electrochemical-type test strip comprising a pair of electrodes and a spacer therebetween defining a reaction zone.

14. The reagent coated substrate of claim 8, in a reagent test strip wherein said reagent test strip can be read by a hand held meter.

15. A system for use in determining the concentration of an analyte in a physiological sample, comprising:

a reagent test strip comprising substrate as described in claim 8 in combination with a hand-held meter, wherein said reagent test strip and said meter are adapted to interface with one another.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said reagent test strip is received by said meter.

17. A kit for use in determining the concentration of an analyte in a physiological sample, comprising:

a reagent test strip comprising substrate as described in claim 8 in packaged combination with at least one of a set of directions for test strip use, a means for obtaining a physiological sample, and an analyte standard.

18. A method for determining the concentration of an analyte in a sample, said method comprising:

applying a fluid sample to a reagent test strip comprising a reagent coated substrate as described in claim 8;

detecting a signal from said reagent test strip; and

relating said detected signal to the concentration of analyte in said sample to determine the concentration of said analyte in said fluid sample.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said fluid sample is a biological sample.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said analyte is glucose.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said detecting and relating steps are performed by a hand held meter.